

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00

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FM USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2526

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S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 0119

EXDIS/SALT

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SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: DRAFT NAC LETTER (SALT TWO-590)

REF: USNATO 1568, STATE 066561

1. FOLLOWING, FOR WASHINGTON COMMENTS OR CONCURRENCE, IS THE TEXT OF A DRAFT LETTER PREPARED BY SALTDEL FOR CIRCULATION BY AMBASSADOR BRUCE TO PERM REPS.

2. AS THERE HAVE BEEN DEVELOPMENTS OF INTEREST IN SALT SINCE AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S LAST MEETING WITH THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL ON FEB. 24, I WANT TO REPORT TO YOU ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA.

3. AS AMBASSADOR JOHNSON REPORTED AT HIS LAST CONSULTATION, ON FEB. 1 THE SOVIET DELEGATION TABLED THE TEXT OF A DRAFT AGREEMENT, THE KEY ELEMENTS OF WHICH WERE OUTLINED FOR THE COUNCIL BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON ON FEB. 24. AS AMBASSADOR JOHNSON NOTED AT THAT TIME, THE US SIDE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE SOVIET DRAFT, BUT SOUGHT TO ARRIVE AT
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A MEETING OF THE MINDS WITH THEM ON THE BASIC ISSUES WHICH WE

FELT SHOULD BE RESOLVED BEFORE UNDERTAKING THE DRAFTING OF A TEXT. THEN, ON MARCH 5, THE US SIDE TABLED A DRAFT AGREEMENT WHICH INCORPORATED THE US POSITIONS AMBASSADOR JOHNSON DESCRIBED HERE LAST MONTH.

4. THE US DRAFT AGREEMENT IS MORE SPECIFIC AND DETAILED IN ITS PROVISIONS THAN THE SOVIET DRAFT. THIS REFLECTS OUR BELIEF THAT THE NEW AGREEMENT SHOULD BE AS CLEAR, UNAMBIGUOUS AND SELF-CONTAINED A DOCUMENT AS POSSIBLE. THE TWO DRAFTS REFLECT THE KEY SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SIDES WHICH AMBASSADOR JOHNSON DISCUSSED HERE. THESE DIFFERENCES CENTER AROUND THE SYSTEMS TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE AGGREGATE LIMITATIONS AND THE MEASURES REQUIRED TO ASSURE ADEQUATE VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE MIRV LIMITATIONS.

5. AFTER THE TABLING OF THE US DRAFT, THE HEADS OF DELEGATION AGREED TO ESTABLISH THREE WORKING GROUPS TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THESE INCLUDE A DEFINITIONS GROUP THAT IS FOCUSING ON WHICH SYSTEMS ARE TO BE LIMITED BY THE AGREEMENT TOGETHER WITH THEIR APPROPRIATE DEFINITIONS; A VERIFICATION GROUP THAT IS FOCUSING ON PROBLEMS RELATED TO THIS ASPECT OF THE AGREEMENT; AND A DRAFTING GROUP THAT IS HANDLING THE REMAINING ASPECTS OF THE JOINT DRAFT TEXT. EACH OF THESE GROUPS INCLUDES ONE OR MORE MEMBERS OF EACH DELEGATION, AS WELL AS APPROPRIATE STAFF.

6. IN ADDITION TO REGULAR PLENARY MEETINGS, THE WORKING GROUPS ARE MEETING INFORMALLY SEVERAL TIMES A WEEK AND REPORTING AD REFERENDUM TO HEADS OF DELEGATION, WHO IN TURN REPORT AD REFERENDUM TO THEIR GOVERNMENT. THESE GROUPS HAVE DONE MUCH USEFUL WORK IN REFINING THE MAIN ISSUES, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT MUCH WORK STILL LIES AHEAD. IN THIS CONNECTION, BOTH SIDES AGREED TO REMAIN IN SESSION AT EASTER, RATHER THAN RECESS AS HAS BEEN DONE IN OTHER YEARS. JOHNSON

SECRET

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